

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A system for automatically planning, booking and calendaring travel arrangements, the system comprising:
 - a data storage device;
 - a booking engine;
 - an output device;
 - a processor programmed to:
 - maintain in the storage device a database of user profile information including information regarding air travel booking preferences, car booking preferences, hotel booking preferences and personal preference air travel ratings,
 - receive a travel request input including travel request data gathered from a user's personal calendar application,
 - use the stored user profile information and the travel request data to automatically formulate a travel request in response to the travel request input, the travel request including airline, hotel and rental car reservation information,
 - automatically create a travel query file by applying business rules to the travel request, including:
 - automatically executing an air booking process based on at least two categories of user preference information selected from the group of categories of lowest price, arrival/departure time, airline, non-stop, duration, alternate airports and full fare automobile upgrades,
 - automatically executing a car booking process, and
 - automatically executing a hotel booking process,
 - submit the query file to a booking engine for creating a travel request query,
 - submit the travel request query to a travel distribution system for retrieving air, car and hotel availability information,
 - receive from the travel distribution system the air, car and hotel availability information and create a suggested travel itinerary,

output for display on a user display device the suggested travel itinerary,
allow manual changes to be made to the suggested travel itinerary,
accept manual confirmation of the suggested travel itinerary; and
process data from the confirmed travel itinerary for automatically creating and storing
appointment events in a user's personal calendar application.

2. (Currently amended) A method for automatically planning, booking and
calendarizing travel arrangements, the method comprising:

maintaining in a computer storage device a database of user profile information including
information regarding air travel booking preferences, car booking preferences, hotel booking
preferences and personal preference air travel ratings;

receiving a travel request input including travel request data gathered from a user's
personal calendar application;

using the stored user profile information and the travel request data to automatically
formulate a travel request in response to the travel request input, the travel request including
airline, hotel and rental car reservation information;

automatically creating a travel query file by applying business rules to the travel request,
including:

automatically executing an air booking process based on at least two categories of user
preference information selected from the group of categories of lowest price, arrival/departure
time, airline, non-stop, duration, alternate airports and full fare automobile upgrades,

automatically executing a car booking process, and

automatically executing a hotel booking process,

submitting the query file to a booking engine for creating a travel request query;

submitting the travel request query to a travel distribution system for retrieving air, car
and hotel availability information;

receiving from the travel distribution system the air, car and hotel availability information
and creating a suggested travel itinerary;

outputting for display on a user display device the suggested travel itinerary;

allowing manual changes to be made to the suggested travel itinerary;

accepting manual confirmation of the suggested travel itinerary;
automatically creating and storing appointment events in the user's personal calendar application using data from the confirmed travel itinerary.

3. (New) A system for automatically planning, booking and calendaring travel arrangements, the system comprising:

a data storage device;

an output device;

a processor programmed to:

maintain in the storage device a database of user profile information including information regarding travel booking preferences,

receive a travel request input including travel request data gathered from a user's personal calendar application,

use the stored user profile information and the travel request data to automatically formulate a travel request in response to the travel request input, the travel request including reservation information,

automatically create a travel query file by applying business rules to the travel request, and

submit the query file to a booking engine for creating a travel request query.

4. (New) The system of claim 3 wherein the processor is programmed to submit the travel request query to a travel distribution system for retrieving air, car and hotel availability information.

5. (New) The system of claim 3 wherein the processor is programmed to receive from the travel distribution system the air, car and hotel availability information and create a suggested travel itinerary.

6. (New) The system of claim 3 wherein the processor is programmed to output for display on a user display device the suggested travel itinerary.

7. (New) The system of claim 3 wherein the processor is programmed to allow manual changes to be made to the suggested travel itinerary.

8. (New) The system of claim 3 wherein the processor is programmed to accept manual confirmation of the suggested travel itinerary.

9. (New) The system of claim 3 wherein the processor is programmed to process data from the confirmed travel itinerary for automatically creating and storing appointment events in the user's personal calendar application.

10. (New) A method for automatically planning, booking and calendaring travel arrangements, the method comprising:

- maintaining in a computer storage device a database of user profile information including travel booking preference information;

- receiving a travel request input including travel request data gathered from a user's personal calendar application;

- using the stored user profile information and the travel request data to automatically formulate a travel request in response to the travel request input;

- automatically creating a travel query file by applying business rules to the travel request, including:

- automatically executing a travel booking process;

- submitting the query file to a booking engine for creating a travel request query;

- submitting the travel request query to a travel distribution system for retrieving air, car and hotel availability information;

- receiving from the travel distribution system the air, car and hotel availability information and creating a suggested travel itinerary; and

- outputting for display on a user display device the suggested travel itinerary.

11. (New) The method of claim 10 wherein automatically executing a travel booking process includes automatically executing an air travel booking process.

12. (New) The method of claim 11 wherein the air travel booking process is executed based on at least two categories of user preference information selected from the group of categories of lowest price, arrival/departure time, airline, non-stop, duration, alternate airports and full fare automobile upgrades.

13. (New) The method of claim 10 wherein automatically executing a travel booking process includes automatically executing a car booking process.

14. (New) The method of claim 10 wherein automatically executing a travel booking process includes automatically executing a hotel booking process.

15. (New) The method of claim 10 wherein the travel booking preference information includes air travel booking preference information.

16. (New) The method of claim 10 wherein the travel booking preference information includes car booking preference information.

17. (New) The method of claim 10 wherein the travel booking preference information includes hotel booking preference information.

18. (New) The method of claim 10 wherein the travel booking preference information includes personal preference air travel rating information.

19. (New) The method of claim 10 wherein the travel request includes airline reservation information.

20. (New) The method of claim 10 wherein the travel request includes rental car reservation information.

21. (New) The method of claim 10 wherein automatically creating a travel query file includes automatically executing a car booking process.

22. (New) The method of claim 10 wherein automatically creating a travel query file includes automatically executing a hotel booking process.

23. (New) The method of claim 10 further comprising allowing manual changes to be made to the suggested travel itinerary.

24. (New) The method of claim 10 further comprising accepting manual confirmation of the suggested travel itinerary.

25. (New) The method of claim 10 further comprising automatically creating and storing appointment events in the calendar application using data from the confirmed travel

itinerary.

26. (New) The method of claim 10 wherein the travel booking preference information includes information regarding one or more company travel policies.

27. (New) A system for automatically planning, booking and calendaring travel arrangements, the system comprising:

a user computer having stored thereon:

a calendar application for recording and displaying calendar events;

a web browser for locating and displaying web page information; and

a calendar application plug-in;

wherein the calendar application plug-in is configured to:

gather travel request data from the calendar application;

cooperate with calendar application and web browser to submit a travel request to a host computer system;

receive from the host computer system a suggested itinerary; and

upon confirmation from the user of the suggested itinerary, cooperate with the calendar application to store appointment events in the calendar application corresponding to the suggested itinerary.

28. (New) The system of claim 27 wherein the calendar application is configured to: receive user profile information; and cooperate with the web browser to send the user profile information to the host computer system.

29. (New) The system of claim 27 wherein the calendar application is configured to: display on a user display device the suggested travel itinerary; and receive manual changes made to the suggested travel itinerary.

30. (New) The system of claim 27 wherein the appointment events stored in the calendar include entries for one or more of an outbound flight, an return flight, a car pick-up, a car drop-off, a hotel check-in and a hotel check-out.

31. (New) A method for automatically planning, booking, and calendaring travel

arrangements in conformance with both traveler preference and an organization's travel policy, the method comprising:

- maintaining in a computer storage device a database of user profile information including travel booking preference information;

- maintaining in a computer storage device a database of organizational travel policies;
- receiving a travel request input including travel request data gathered from a user's personal calendar application;

- using the organizational travel policy information and the stored user profile information to construct a policy-conformant travel proposal that is also a best available match to the user profile preference information;

- using the policy-conformant travel proposal data to automatically formulate a travel request in response to the travel request input and creating a suggested travel itinerary;

- automatically creating a travel query file by applying business rules to the travel request, including:

 - automatically executing a travel booking process;

 - submitting the query file to a booking engine for creating a travel request query;

 - submitting the travel request query to a travel distribution system for retrieving air, car and hotel availability information;

 - receiving from the travel distribution system the air, car and hotel availability information; and

 - outputting for display on a user display device the suggested travel itinerary.

32. (New) The method of claim 31 further comprising allowing manual changes to be made to the suggested travel itinerary.

33. (New) The method of claim 32 further comprising validating each of the manual changes against organizational travel policy rules.

34. (New) The method of claim 31 further comprising allowing manual confirmation of the suggested travel itinerary.

35. (New) The method of claim 31 further comprising automatically creating and

storing appointment events in the calendar application using data from the confirmed travel itinerary.

36. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein the user profile information includes one or more air travel booking preferences, car booking preferences, hotel booking preferences, and personal preference air travel ratings.

37. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein the organizational travel policies include one or more cost limitations, notification requirements, class-of-service limitations, locale-based preferences for air, hotel, and car vendors, and route-based preferences for air carriers.

38. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein the travel request includes airline reservation information.

39. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein the travel request includes hotel reservation information.

40. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein the travel request includes rental car reservation information.

41. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein automatically executing a booking process includes automatically executing an air booking process.

42. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein the step of automatically an air booking process is based on at least two categories of user preference information selected from the group of categories of lowest price, arrival/departure time, airline, nonstop, duration, alternate airports, and availability of automatic upgrades.

43. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein automatically executing a booking process includes automatically executing a car booking process.

44. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein automatically executing a booking process includes automatically executing a hotel booking process.